

**This Fact Sheet will tell you
about.....**

- **Current Activities**
- **What's next?**
- **Site History**
- **What is ATSDR?**
- **For More Information**

Current Activities

On December 3, 2009, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) signed a Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) for a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the Devil's Swamp Lake Site (Site). The UAO was provided to the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) for the Site. The UAO is effective December 18, 2009. The action will determine the nature and extent of contamination as well as alternatives for remedial actions at the Site.

As per the requirements of the UAO, the PRPs will evaluate existing Site information in the upcoming months and will submit a draft work to conduct the investigation by mid summer 2010. At that time EPA plans to conduct the next community meeting to discuss the planning for the RI/FS.

In March 2009 the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality conducted fish advisory sign maintenance in the Devil's Swamp Lake area. They replaced missing or damaged signs.

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals is attempting to notify all Louisiana residents of these advisories via fishing licenses, their website, and placement of the health advisory consultations in each of the library repositories across the state.

All individuals who obtain a fishing license are provided Louisiana Department of Health/Department and the Environmental Quality/Department Wild Life fish consumption advisories for water bodies throughout the state

In addition, EPA, working with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, held a

Environmental Health Fair in Alsen on December 9, 2009.

What's next?

The EPA in cooperation with the Local Emergency Planning Committee, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals is planning to conduct an educational session on the release of hazardous materials due to natural disasters or facility accidents, emergency response planning/procedures and the role of communities in such events. In addition, EPA is working with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals to bring various local health care providers together for a Health Fair in the community of Alsen.

Site History

Devil's Swamp is in a large flood plain area which consists of Devil's Swamp Lake and areas immediately adjoining the lake. The site is near Alsen, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, about ten miles north of the City of Baton Rouge. The Devil's Swamp flood plain is a freshwater wetland covering approximately 12 square miles of land along the east side of the Mississippi River. Devil's Swamp Lake is characterized as a man-made lake, resulting from excavation of soil used as material for construction of levees around Baton Rouge Harbor in 1973.

The Clean Harbors Environmental Services, Inc. formerly Rollins Environmental Services of Louisiana, Inc. is located northeast of the Baton Rouge Harbor and west of Scenic Highway. Rollins began operating a hazardous chemical disposal facility in 1971. Most of the landfill cells and receiving basins were below grade and used the natural clay soils for liners.

In October 1987, the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, issued a fish-consumption advisory for Devil's Swamp Lake. The perimeter of the advisory was expanded through an advisory update to include Devil's Swamp and Bayou Baton Rouge in July 1993. The current advisory recommends that fish not be consumed more than two meals per month, taken in the areas of Devil's Swamp, Devil's Swamp Lake, and Bayou Baton Rouge.

What is ATSDR?

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is part of the Public Health Service in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is not a regulatory agency like the EPA. ATSDR's mission is to prevent exposure and adverse human health effects and diminished quality of life associated exposure to hazardous substances from waste sites, unplanned releases, and other sources. ATSDR works closely with the EPA and other federal, state, and local government agencies to protect human health.

ATSDR conducts a Public Health Assessment for every site on or proposed for the National Priorities List. The assessment reviews available information about hazardous substances at a site and evaluates whether exposure to them might cause any harm to people. To make these determinations the study looks at environmental data, health data and the community concerns.

For More Information.....

Bartolomé J. Cañellas Remedial Project Manager

U.S. EPA Region 6
(214) 665-6662 or 1-800-533-3508 (toll free)

Bill Little Community Involvement Coordinator

U.S. EPA Region 6
(214) 665-8131 or 1-800-533-3508 (toll free)

Donn Walters Regional Public Liaison

U.S. EPA Region 6
(214) 665-6483 or 1-800-533-3508 (toll free)

Thomas Stafford
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Baton Rouge, LA
(225) 219-3222

Darcie Olexia
Environmental Health Scientist
Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals,
Office of Public Health
Section of Environmental Epidemiology and
Toxicology
Phone: (504)219-4586

Site Repository

Scotlandville Branch Library
7373 Scenic Highway
Baton Rouge, LA 70807
(225) 354-3172

News media inquiries should be directed to press officers Dave Bary and Anthony Suttice at Region 6 Press Office at 214-665-2200

You can find more information about the Region 6 Superfund program on EPA's Region 6 website:
<http://www.epa.gov/region6/superfund>